

CLERK: 20 ayes, 10 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch, before I recognize Senator Koch I would like to announce that in the, I believe, I'm not sure which balcony, but they will tell us which balcony. From Senator George's district we have thirty six eighth grade students from Lyons School. Where are you Lyons School? Hey, there you are. North balcony. Maybe we ought to guess which balcony they are in hereafter. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body, I think it is imperative that this body seriously consider this amendment. That Council and that Mayor are not inexperienced when it comes to budget. The Mayor was formerly a City Council member. Mr. Hassett has been on that Council for a great number of years. Mr. Rosenblatt has served on that Council for a great number of years. Former Senator Swigart served on that Council and now reelected to that Council. I recall very distinctly his record in this body. I recall very distinctly what his remarks when the Mayor brought the budget to the Council for approval. He said this is a frugal good budget. We can live with it and what Senator Newell is proposing, three more months in addition to what I offered to you yesterday is absolutely adequate. Absolutely adequate. If it isn't, let the City of Omaha come back to this body one more time and prove to us that they indeed have additional financial problems. No one yet has addressed the appreciation of the property upon which they will levy their twenty seven mills. We are not even talking about that. Yet I would almost bet that it will appreciate seven to eight percent in value without any reappraisal. So when you levy their next budget against that increase in evaluation, immediately you have an additional sum of money which no one has talked to directly on this floor and I think it is high time for honesty and candor. If they can't get out of their problem with \$10,000,000, that's approximately what they are going to get regardless of what Senator Goodrich is trying to tell you, this body will adjourn by April 15, not July 15. If we give them thirty three votes, they can indeed be effective and start collecting their taxes July 1 and carry it on to a date that Senator Newell is speaking to which is a year from this September and indeed be able to recover and to put their house in shape. Mr. Richardson, who is the financial finance director, a brilliant man, has served in that position for a number of years. A year ago he said, the budget is in great shape. We have a surplus. Mr. Bradley, the article that Mr. Chambers sent around to you, was formerly a City Councilman. He sees no big problem in terms of golf carts and dump carts and new tractors because they transferred that money from one other division to another division. Look at their budget. Do you think this body should be concerned about the payment of the 1979 utility costs and street and lighting and gas and water? Do you think we should be concerned about what they anticipate to be the increases according to C.P.I.? Those things are going to be negotiated. The other fact that I think you should be made aware of. It was printed in the World Herald in black letters, that the Chairman of the Police Department who was negotiating for them said, "Had Omaha stayed at the table, we would have settled for 7.8." Had they stayed at the table, but no, the City of Omaha from the wisdom of their negotiator said, "We're at impasse. They are asking too much. Let's go to the Court of Industrial Relations." And so they got their answer from the Court. The Court of Industrial Relations is being, to me, being unfairly criticized here. You had better talk to the process of negotiation. All